

# Tea Party says Department of Education should be left behind

Submitted by [Anissa Ford](#) on 2010-09-23



Kentucky Senate hopeful Rand Paul and other Tea Party candidates are looking for ways to downsize the federal government. Consequently, the Tea Party has marked a big red X on the forehead of the US Department of Education. Tea Party members running for office, including Rand Paul in Kentucky and Sharon Angle in Nevada, say they'll work to abolish the Department of Education if elected.

The Tea Party says education, testing, and George Bush's No Child Left Behind Act are local, not federal matters. Furthermore, some Tea Party members feel the Department of Education doesn't have the constitutional right to exist.

## **The Department of Education was established under Jimmy Carter and it expanded by almost 70 percent with the No Child Left Behind act.**

However, the Tea Party movement doubts the department's effectiveness and its constitutional right to exist. [One noted conservative blogger writes](#) "Among the limited and enumerated powers given to Congress in Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution, not one of them has anything to do with education."

Nationally, public schools are not so absolutely dependent on federal monies the way colleges and universities are. Typically, states get 10% of its funding from the feds which is then divided among counties. The funding generally hosts programs that assist economically and academically disadvantaged students, including free and reduced lunch and breakfast plans.

Congress says the Department of Education is established in the interest of the American public. One of the organization's goals is to promote the general welfare of the country and ensure that "education issues receive proper treatment at the federal level."

But Andrew Coulson, the director of Cato Institute's Center for Education Freedom says that abolishing the Department of Education and its related programs would save \$150 billion.

Overall, Republicans have praised the efforts of Department of Education Secretary Arne Rand and the Obama administration.

One Obama administration [goal is to improve the number of college graduates in the United States by the year 2020](#). Dr. Jill Biden, the vice president's wife has been associated with the objectives since her husband, Joe Biden, took office.